

Tips to Increase 4th DTaP Rates

Washington needs your help to increase childhood immunization rates and fight pertussis. The 4th DTaP, recommended at 15-18 months, is often missed. Pertussis rates are high in Washington and nearly 20 percent of children are at risk because they have not received their 4th DTaP by age three.

Here are tips other health care providers use to ensure children receive all five DTaP doses:

- **Remind your staff that vaccines can be given even when a child has a mild illness.**
- **It is safe to give multiple vaccines at every visit.**
- **Review a child's immunization history at every visit, including acute visits.**
- **Record immunizations given in the CHILD Profile immunization registry.**
- **Use reminder/recalls to ensure parents bring children in for each DTaP dose – free postcards are available or CHILD Profile can help.**
- **Give the 3rd dose on time – research has shown that giving the 3rd DTaP on time predicts that the 4th will be on time.**
- **Pre-schedule 4th DTaP appointments when children receive their 3rd DTaP.**
- **Find out what your practice's 4th DTaP rates are and track them over time – ask your local health department how a CASA or AFIX site visit can help you do this.**

Get Involved!

Help Washington fight pertussis and increase 4th DTaP immunization rates:

- **Contact** your local health department for more immunization information.
- **Set up** an AFIX site visit with your local health department.
- **Visit** the Washington State Department of Health website: www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize.
- **Order** a free 4th DTaP poster for your office
- **Order** free reminder recall postcards



Be part of the solution and make sure your patients aren't missing any DTaP doses.



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